

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 03391 281956Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----281958Z 013340 /43

P R 281940Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 155
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 3391

S/S ALSO FOR CARTER LIAISON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TD, PPDC
SUBJECT: ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT--PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE RE-
COMMENDED

1. THE PRESENT INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, ELLIS CLARKE, WILL BE FORMALLY ELECTED TO A FIVE-YEAR TERM AS PRESIDENT ON DECEMBER 29. HE WILL OFFICIALLY TAKE OFFICE AS THE FIRST FULL PRESIDENT OF THE NEW REPUBLIC ON JANUARY 28, 1977.

2. PRESIDENT CLARKE WILL BE ELECTED BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE NEW REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION, COMPRISED OF ALL MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT. AS THE ONLY CANDIDATE, HIS ELECTION IS ASSUREDDM (SINCE A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE MUST BE NOMINATED BY AT LEAST 12 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ONLY THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT HAD THE REQUISITE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO MAKE A NOMINATION, AND PESIDENT CLARKE WAS ITS CANDIDATE.) THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY, THE UNITED LABOR FRONT, HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ALSO GONE ON RECORD AS BEING UNOPPOSED TO CLARKE'S ELECTION.

3. NO CEREMONIES HAVE YET BEEN PLANNED FOR THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT CLARKE, AND WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT THE TRANSITION FROM INTERIM TO CONSTITUTIONALLY-ELECTED PRESIDENT WILL BE HANDLED IN A LOW-KEYMANNER.

4. HOWEVER, WE RECOMMEND THAT AN APPROPRIATE CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE,
TAKING NOTE OF PRESIDENT CLARKE'S LONG ASSOCIATION WITH
THE UNITED STATES AS HIS COUNTRY'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON,
BE SENT AFTER THE DECEMBER 29 ELECTION. SINCE THE PRESIDENTIAL
INAUGURATION IN THE UNITED STATES WILL PRECEDE PRESIDENT CLARKE'S
INAUGURATION, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE MESSAGE TO COME
FROM PRESIDENT CARTER AT THAT TIME AS A MEANS OF ESTABLISHING A
FIRST CONTACT WITH THIS IMPORTANT CARIBBEAN COUNTRY BY THE NEW
ADMINISTRATION.

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Message Attributes

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